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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who remains the same though all else fades, You don't leave us when we leave You. You are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love.

Thank You for Your presence in the lives of our Senators. Give them a clearer vision of the light that leads to truth. Remind them that everything is possible for those who believe. Incline their hearts to Your wisdom and love, as you keep them on the path of integrity. May they find rest and joy in spending time with You. When their hearts grow faint and weary and the night overtakes them, renew their strength and enable them to soar on eagle's wings. May the differing approaches expressed by both parties contribute to greater solutions to the problems in our world. Lord, deliver our lawmakers in times of trouble and bless them as they seek to honor You.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 31, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the Senate will conduct a period of morning business for an hour, with the time equally divided and controlled. The majority will control the first half and the Republicans will control the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to H.R. 3963, the children's health insurance legislation.

For the knowledge of all Members, we came in late today. There was a very important hearing that one of the committees had. We had been told that there would likely be a Senator who would object to the committee meeting, so we came in later so they could complete their work. I think we will still accomplish all we need to do.

I filed a cloture motion on the motion to proceed. Unless an agreement is reached, we will have a cloture vote sometime this afternoon.

We are going to start the farm bill after the CHIP legislation is completed or disposed of. That will be Monday when we will move to the farm bill.

MEASURES PLACED ON CALENDAR—S. 2264 and H.R. 2295

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair direct its attention to two bills at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2264) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for two years the tax-free distributions from individual retirement plans for charitable purposes.

A bill (H.R. 2295) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now object to any further proceeding to these bills en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, children's health is a tremendously difficult issue because children all over America need to be able to go to a doctor when they are sick or hurt. The way this body is operating now basically is that we are not going to be able to complete, it appears, our legislation. The President has vetoed the bill once. We were told that if certain changes were made, Republicans in the House would look to this legislation favorably. We did make some changes. We tightened down the legislation so it is virtually impossible for anyone who is here illegally to obtain benefits from this program. We changed that.

We also limited the legislation so parents or adults without children would be off the program in 1 year. Also, there could be no waivers for

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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